

**CHINA MISSION
NEWSLETTER**

KAOHSIUNG - 1 October 2020

MISSIONARY

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God, in His infinite wisdom, has commanded that we as Christians assemble. He communicates this either directly or indirectly in multiple passages. There are good reasons for this injunction; God never invokes frivolous requirements. His commandments are not capricious. There, however, when meeting with the saints is not possible, but no child of God should be willfully absent without good reason.

Sometimes the spirit is willing but the body is weak. Few there are who can claim they have never missed an assembly due to illness. Then there are those who must be hospitalized, and others are confined in their home due to a serious illness. Additionally, there are those who have depressed immune system-most commonly among the elderly-who must avoid contagious thus must avoid crowds during a season of increased risk. Whether it is right to miss services in any given instance is an individual decision. Before his God, he will be judged and will either stand or fall (Romans 14:4). A good number of those who must miss the assembly admirably try to compensate with personal Bible reading and study, or by some electronic means, which, incidentally, has been available long before the advent of the Net, for as long as there has been radio, TV, and telephone hookups. Nevertheless, nothing can adequately substitute for physical presence, nor fulfill the command to assemble. Even when there is justifiable reason for be absent when the saints are met, there is a spiritual toll exacted upon the soul. This is why v to the assembly when health is restored. We have had only one person to stay away because of the crisis. She has battled a life threatening ailment for years and must avoid infection.

This begs the question, What does the Bible say about mandatory quarantine? The Holy Writ defines three broad categories of biblical quarantine: 1) The disease is fully manifested and diagnosis confirmed; 2) There are symptoms of the disease but diagnosis is unconfirmed; 3) There has been abnormally high exposure to possible contagion. In the first instance, quarantine ends when there is resolution of the disease in the individual. In the second and third instance, quarantine ends when the incubation period for the disease has passed with no progression into a diseased state. Unless the disease is lifelong, quarantine is a temporary measure of relative duration. Scripture is devoid of any concept of an indefinite "new normal". In the 14th century, Black Plague swept through

Europe, peaking between 1346-1353. The Jews who practiced Biblical principles of quarantine did not suffer to the same extent as the general population. Ironic, Jews were blamed for the plague and persecuted. The arrogant ignore biblical principle to the destruction of society. Bill Gates on NBC's Meet the Press said: "The only way we'll get completely back to normal is by having, maybe not the first generation of vaccines, but eventually a vaccine that is super-effective, and that a lot of the people take, and that we get the disease eliminated on a global basis." Waiting to lift lockdown, social distancing, masks, etc., until the virus is eradicated worldwide has already killed more people globally than the virus. Audited morbidity figures for all causes of death as well as stats for COVID-19 deaths show this corona virus to be no worse than many previous flu seasons. This is not due to all the unbiblical extreme measures. Contagion did not run rampant among massive protests and rallies with no masks and no distancing. Nations and states that did not employ lockdown-amounting to house arrest-have the lowest infection and morbidity stats. Evil is afoot. Pray. An insidious evil is destroying our culture, society, and way of life. Our assemblies and thus our souls are under attack. Risk is inevitable. Life is fraught There is risk just driving to church. God's word is replete with teaching that we are to take risks and rely on His Providence. God does not intend for us to live as did Howard Hughes in his later years.

Your servant in Christ,

Eugene F. Brzozowski